

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 USSS-00 SCCT-01 IO-10

DHA-02 /069 W

----- 073111

O 311245Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4969

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 12605

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PEC, ASEC, IR, SA, AU, AG, US

SUBJ: RELEASE OF OPEC TERRORISTS

REF: STATE 304486

1. BY CHANCE DCM MET PRIME MINISTER MORNING OF DECEMBER 31 AND TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO ASK HIM WHETHER GOI HAD OR INTENDED TO MAKE AN APPROACH TO ALGERIA ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF THE OPEC TERRORISTS. PM SAID THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY BEEN IN DIRECT AND CONTINUING CONTACT WITH ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA DURING THE TIME THAT THE HOSTAGES WERE STILL IN CUSTODY BUT THEY HAD NOT DISCUSSED IN DETAIL WHAT MIGHT BE DONE WITH THE TERRORISTS ASSUMING THE HOSTAGES WERE RELEASED UNHARMED. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE ALGERIANS SUBSEQUENTLY AND DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD OR INTENDED TO MAKE ANY REPRESENTATION ON THIS SUBJECT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IRAN'S POSITION ABOUT PUNISHMENT FOR TERRORISTS' CRIMES IS WELL KNOWN AS "IT HAD MADE CLEAR ONLY THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY."

COMMENT: PRESUMABLY THE PM WAS REFERRING TO EDITORIALS IN LEADING IRANIAN NEWSPAPERS CONDEMNING TERRORISM IN
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GENERAL AND THE OPEC TERRORISM SPECIFICALLY AND CALLING

FOR INTERNATIONAL ACCORD TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM IN THE
FUTURE. HE SAID THAT IRAN WOULD WELCOME ANY US STATEMENT
ALONG THESE SAME LINES.

2. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNDERSECRETARY NASSIR
ASSAR TOLD US LATER IN THE DAY THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF
ANY REPRESENTATION IRAN HAD MADE OR MIGHT INTEND TO MAKE
ON THIS SUBJECT BUT HE WOULD CHECK WIT THE FOREIGN
MINISTER BEFORE GIVING US A FIRM REPLY. IN THE MEANTIME,
HOWEVER, HE REPEATED MUCH OF WHAT THE PM HAD SAID ABOUT
IRAN'S WELL KNOWN POSITION ON TERRORISM AND THE NEED FOR
INTERNATIONAL ACCORD ON WAYS OF DEALING WITH IT.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, TERRORISTS, PRISONERS RELEASE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN12605
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750451-0411
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975123/aaaaaccx.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 304486
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELEASE OF OPEC TERRORISTS
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, IR, SA, AU, AG, US, OPEC
To: SS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006